

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[8323.2]****Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on Construction of an Interpretive Center and Other Facilities at Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark, Montana****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) on construction of an interpretive center and other facilities at Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark, Montana and Notice of Scoping Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management, Billings Field Office and the Montana Department of Transportation will be directing the preparation of an EA to be prepared by a third party contractor on the impacts of a proposed interpretive center and other facilities proposed on public lands at Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark in south-central Montana. The EA will amend the Billings Resource Management Plan to provide further guidance on the management of Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark.

DATES: Written comments will be accepted until January 28, 2000. Public scoping meetings will be held at Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark on January 4, 2000 and in Billings, Montana on January 5, 2000. Exact locations and times will be announced through the local media. Additional briefing meetings will be considered as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Billings Field Manager, P. O. Box 36800, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana 59107-6800. ATTN: Pompeys Pillar Interpretive Center EA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dick Kodeski, BLM Billings Field Office, (406) 896-5235.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The need for a new interpretive center at Pompeys Pillar National Historic Landmark was addressed in the 1996 Pompeys Pillar Amendment to the Billings Resource Management Plan and impacts analyzed in the accompanying EA. The EA to be developed at this time will further analyze the location and visual aspects of the interpretive center, as well as that of additional facilities, including the possibility of a State of Montana Department of Transportation highway rest area at this location. Additional facilities to be addressed are an entrance

road, trails, parking, restrooms, picnic area, sewage treatment, utilities, and employee housing. The possibility of providing a highway rest area is being considered because of potential cost savings to the public through the sharing of development, and operation and maintenance of facilities.

The scoping process for the EA will include: (1) Identification of what will be addressed; (2) Identification of viable alternatives, including a no-action alternative, and (3) Notifying interested groups, individuals, and agencies so that additional information concerning this project can be obtained.

Dated: November 18, 1999.

Larry E. Hamilton,

State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****[CO-14000-00-1220-00]****Notice of Availability of Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Red Hill Area, Colorado****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of Availability, Decision Record, and Travel and Use Restrictions.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulations in CFR 1610.2 and 1610.5-5., the BLM has amended the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Glenwood Springs Field Office (GSFO) approved in January of 1984.

The amendment changed the management prescription for the Red Hill area, approximately 3,093 acres, north of the town of Carbondale, Colorado in Garfield County. The Red Hill area includes all BLM managed public lands bounded on the west and south by State Highway 82, on the north by the County Road 113, and on the east by County Roads 112 and 105. These public lands are located in Township 7 South, Range 88 West, Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28; Sixth P.M.

The Decision Record (DR) administratively recognized Red Hill area as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) where recreation is a principle management focus. The DR closed the area to

unauthorized motorized vehicles and designated routes open for mountain bike riding. To protect wintering big game, the DR placed seasonal (December 1-March 31) restrictions on mountain bike travel in; Township 7 South; Range 88 West; Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 (north half), 22, 23, 26, 27; Sixth P.M. The DR revised the Class III and IV visual resource management designations to Class II where the level of change in basic landscape elements will remain low. The DR also applied no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations to the area to maintain the current undeveloped physical setting.

DATES: The amendment, including the travel and use restrictions, to the Glenwood Springs Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Red Hill area will take effect after the 60-day Governor's Consistency Review and 30-day protest period, provided all protests have been resolved by that time. The 60-day Governor's Consistency Review will end December 31, 1999. The 30-day protest period will begin when notice of the decision is published in the **Federal Register**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Intent to prepare a RMP amendment was published in the **Federal Register** in Vol. 64, No. 1 on Jan. 4, 1999.

The travel and use restrictions are being implemented to protect wintering big game and support the preferred physical, social and managerial recreational settings. The area and routes affected by this order will be posted with appropriate regulatory signs in such a manner and location as is reasonable to bring prohibitions to the attention of visitors. Information, including maps of the restricted area, is available in the Glenwood Springs Field Office at the addresses shown above.

Persons who are exempt from the restrictions include: (1) Any Federal, State, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency and law enforcement activities; (2) BLM employees engaged in official duties; (3) Persons authorized to operate mechanized and motorized vehicles within the restricted area.

The Decision Record contains decisions which amend the Glenwood Springs Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Red Hill area. The Bureau's planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) provide protest procedures for persons adversely affected by the approval of RMP amendments. Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the amendment of an RMP may protest such amendments. A protest may only raise those issues